

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02
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P 290641Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6551

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PASS STR AND AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652:NA
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: STRAUSS/USHIBA FOLLOW-UP

REF; A. STATE 073176, B. TOKYO 04932

1. SUMMARY: GOJ/MAF IS STILL CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS TO ASSURE ORDERLY MARKETING OF ORANGE IMPORTS UNDER EXPANDED QUOTAS, BUT FINAL ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE LESS SEVERE THAN INITIAL RUMORS INDICATED. FINAL DECISION WILL NOT INVOLVE SURCHARGE AS SUCH BUT MIGHT INVOLVE "SMALL TRADITIONAL" IMPORT FEES AND WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE MONTHLY ALLOCATIONS DURING SEASONAL QUOTA PERIOD. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY CONTACTED MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY CONCERNING THE "ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM" FOR CITRUS DRAWING ON POINTS CONTAINED REF A. FUKUDA, SECOND NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION, MOFA, WAS UNAWARE THAT PROGRAM WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND IN CHECKING WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAF WAS TOLD THAT PROGRAM IS BEING PUSHED BY ONE STRONG FACTION OF LDP, BUT THAT MAF DEFINITELY NOT CONSIDERING SURCHARGE ON ORANGE IMPORTS.

3. U.S. CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS OF "CITRUS ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM" WERE AGAIN CONVEYED TO KOJIMA, SENIOR COUNSELOR, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BUREAU, MAF. HE SAID THAT, WHILE

NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE, MAF IS CONVINCED OF NECESSITY FOR A SYSTEM TO ASSURE ORDERLY DISTRIBUTION AND MARKETING OF INCREASED ORANGE IMPORTS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE STRAUSS/USHIBA UNDERSTANDING, PARTICULARLY THE SEASONAL QUOTA OF 22,500 TONS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT REGARDLESS OF SYSTEM ULTIMATELY SELECTED, THERE WILL BE NO SURCHARGE AS SUCH BUT A "SMALL TRADITIONAL" IMPORT FEE MAY BE INVOLVED, I.E., JAPANESE IMPORT AND EXPORT ASSOCIATIONS FOR OTHER COMMODITIES HAVE TRADITIONALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR ORGANIZATION'S OPERATING FUNDS BASED ON VOLUME OF TRADE.

4. KOJIMA BELIEVES THAT MONTHLY ALLOCATION OF IMPORTS WOULD BE A KEY TO ORDERLY MARKETING PARTICULARLY DURING THE SEASONAL IMPORT PERIOD, AND IMPLIED THAT IF A SYSTEM ESTABLISHED, MONTHLY ALLOCATIONS WOULD PROBABLY BE ONE PROVISION OF THE SYSTEM. HE REITERATED THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON IMPORT PROCEDURES, BUT SAID THAT IN ANY CASE THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND MAF ARE COMMITTED TO PERMIT FULL IMPORTS OF 45,000 TONS AND THAT NO SURCHARGE WILL BE BE LEVIED ON IMPORTS.

5. WHILE QUESTION OF MEMBERSHIP IS STILL SOMEWHAT UNCLEAR, THINKING IN MAF SEEMS TO BE THAT ANY CITRUS ADJUSTMENT ORGANIZATION WOULD AT LEAST INCLUDE IMPORTERS AND PRODUCERS.

6. WITH REGARD TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF JFY 1978 PROGRAM FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRESH ORANGE AND JUICE IMPORTS, MAF DOES NOT YET HAVE A SPECIFIC PLAN. AS A PART OF THE UNDERSTANDING LEADING UP TO THE STRAUSS/USHIBA COMMUNIQUE, ADDITIONAL QUOTAS OF 3,000 METRIC TONS FOR ORANGES AND TANGERINES AND 1,000 TONS FOR JUICE FOR JFY 1977 WERE ANNOUNCED, MARCH 10 AND MARCH 14, 1978 RESPECTIVELY. MAF EXPECTS TO ANNOUNCE FIRST HALF JFY 1978 ORANGE QUOTA BY END OF APRIL OR AT LATEST EARLY MAY AND FULL JUICE QUOTA OF 4,000 TONS BY DEC. 31, 1978.

7. NAMES OF JAPANESE TEAM MEMBERS CONTAINED IN REF. B.

8. FORESEE NO PROBLEMS IN SCHEDULING ADDITIONAL MEETINGS APRIL 6 IF REQUIRED. MANSFIELD

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